

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/730,455

Examiner

James H. Blackwell

Applicant(s)

SCHUBERT ET AL.

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 10/31/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-16 and 19-26.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

William S. Bashore
WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
12/11/2005

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach, suggest, or render obvious

An electronic information management system for abstracting and reporting contract information contained in existing executed contracts, comprising:

(a) a computer communicating with an electronic database;

(b) an input device operatively connected to said computer for entering contract information into said database;

(c) a plurality of electronic indexing tags at predetermined locations within the stored contract information and cooperating with a computer program to identify selected sections of the contract information;

(d) a section summary comprising a customized reconstruction of the contract information in layman's terms chosen by an abstractor, said summary being prepared for an associated indexed contract section, and said summary being recorded in a field electronically linked to at least one of said indexing tags, whereby a user viewing said section summary can drill down into the stored contract information to retrieve the contract section corresponding to said at least one electronically linked indexing tag; and

(e) a display device operatively connected to said computer for displaying said section summary and the corresponding contract section.

Art Unit: 2176

2. It is noted by the Examiner that the use of the phrase *executed contract* in claims 9 and 19 (renumbered as 1 and 9) is interpreted to mean a contract that has been completed (carried out) and formally signed (People's Law Dictionary definition of term Executed). The Examiner is interpreting the claim language (as a whole) as being directed to an *executed contract*.

3. Furthermore, it is noted by the Examiner that the definition of the word abstractor implies a person who abstracts or summarizes information (WordNet Search 2.1) and further explained during an interview with the applicant filed 10/13/2005. Support for a human abstractor can also be found in the Specification pages 39-40. Accordingly, the Examiner further interprets said claim as directed to the above interpretation.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

35. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James H. Blackwell whose telephone number is 571-272-4089. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R. Herndon can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James H. Blackwell
12/08/2005

William L. Bashore
WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
12/4/2005